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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,849	11/19/2003	Yigang Cai	30-5-1-2	9499

7590 07/26/2007
Werner Ulrich
434 Maple St.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

EXAMINER

GELIN, JEAN ALLAND

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/26/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/717,849	Applicant(s) CAI ET AL.	
	Examiner Jean A. Gelin	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laybourn et al. (US 2003/0008634) in view of McGregor et al. (US 2001/0000777).

Regarding claims 1, and 14, Laybourn teaches a method of incrementing a telecommunication customer's prepaid account with a prepaid administration system (i.e., increasing credit amount over the air [0007] and [0047]) comprising the steps of: creating data for a scratch card at a recharge card management system by service provider or reseller users (i.e., service provider generates scratch card [0047], [0059], and [0060]; said data comprising a scratch number and reseller account identification data for identifying a reseller that manages and sells the card ([0059]-[0060]); said management system maintained by a service provider; said management system accessible only by authorized service provider or reseller users ([0053]-[0056], [0059], and [0060]); said management system for storing users' profile data in its database ([0059]-[0061]; selling said card to a customer and activating said data for said card in said database ([0047]-[0050] and [0059]-[0061]); said customer calling a prepaid administration system to transfer the value of the scratch card to the customer's account ([0007], [0045]-[0050] and [0059]-[0061]).

Laybourn fails to teach said reseller users limited to accessing card information with their account identification information said reseller card identification information for identifying a reseller and distributors below said reseller in said reseller's hierarchy.

However, the preceding limitations are known in the art of communications. McGregor teaches phone retailers (resellers) can sell and activate phones on site, increase their credit on the phone; furthermore, phones with internal accounting accounting allow for prepayment, the system provider can be assumed by the retailer ([0270] and [0296]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to implement the technique of McGregor within the system of Laybourn in order to increase to the prepaid account of the phone when the credit amount is low.

Regarding claims 2, 15, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches said prepaid administration system checking data received from said customer against data in a database of said recharge card management system to verify an authorization for incrementing said customer's prepaid account ([0055]-[0061]).

Regarding claim 3, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches identifying the customer through a mobile identification number or a calling line identification number and the scratch number of said card ([0059]-[0061]).

Regarding claim 4, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches wherein said users' profile contains data identifying a user

name, a user password, a user account identification, and a user identification (0024], [0054], [0059], [0066], and [0069]).

Regarding claim 5, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches wherein a reseller can have multiple account identifications for distributors in a reseller's hierarchy ([0047]-[0050]).

Regarding claim 6, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches wherein a user can input scratch card manufacturing data for the file at the recharge card management system ([0007]).

Regarding claims 7, 16, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches wherein said manufacturing order file includes scratch card information, manufacturer name, reseller name, account identification and scratch number ([0059]-[0061]).

Regarding claims 8, 17, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches wherein a reseller user enters data for said scratch card in the card database of the recharge card management system, said data comprising an account identification of said reseller ([0047]-[0050], and [0059]-[0061]).

Regarding claims 9, 18, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches said account identification of said reseller or an account identification of a distributor user is arranged in a hierarchy so that distributors can access data only for themselves or distributors further down in a hierarchy of distributors and a reseller user can access data for all distributors below the reseller in said hierarchy ([0047]-[0061]).

Regarding claim 10, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches a reseller or distributor user can modify the card status during inventory and distribution ([0007]).

Regarding claim 11, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches the data in the card database identifies the reseller and includes the account number of the reseller ([0059]-[0061]).

Regarding claim 12, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches a reseller selling a card to a distributor ([0047]-[0050]); and activating said card with an account number of the distributor ([0038]-[0045]).

Regarding claim 13, Laybourn in view of McGregor teaches all the limitations above. Laybourn teaches marking the card as used after the customer's account has been incremented ([0054]-[0061]).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bruner et al.	US 6,185,414	02/06/2001
Uppal	US 2003/0125968	07/03/2003

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean A. Gelin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7842. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

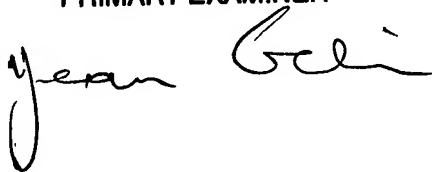
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Appiah can be reached on (571) 272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JEAN GELIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

JGelin
July 20, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Gelin", is written over the printed name and title.